

## Editorial

### Moving Forward

The Publisher and Editor-in-Chief wish to announce the move of the Journal editorial office operations to Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Effective immediately, authors should send all manuscripts and correspondence to the Journal at the following address:

John M. Opitz, MD, Editor-in-Chief  
**American Journal of Medical Genetics**  
Primary Children's Medical Center  
100 North Medical Drive  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

In its move to the University of Utah, the *American Journal of Medical Genetics* lost the close personal collaboration, on site, of Associate Editor, John P. Johnson and of Assistant Editor, Lavelle M. Spano. It is a remarkable fact that in its 20 year history, the Journal has had only 3 Associate Editors (Jürgen Herrmann 1976–1979, James F. Reynolds 1979–1994 and John Johnson 1994–1996), and only one Assistant Editor. Jürgen Herrmann, now in private practice in Milwaukee, helped to get the Journal started while we were still working together at the University of Wisconsin. Shortly after my arrival in Helena in 1979, Jim Reynolds became an enthusiastic coworker who assisted strongly and substantially in leading the Journal to full maturity during its 15 years at Shodair Hospital. With our move in 1994 from Shodair Hospital to the Foundation for Developmental and Medical Genetics, John Johnson effectively assumed the role of Associate Editor.

Lavelle Spano began working for the *American Journal of Medical Genetics* in November, 1979 and was Assistant Editor for over 17 years. She was responsible for the efficient day-to-day operation of the Journal and earned herself the gratitude of all of her colleagues at John Wiley & Sons, hundreds of authors and the editorial office for unfailing courteous and helpful collaboration. Upon leaving the Journal, Lavelle was issued a formal citation from John Wiley & Sons, Publishers that reads:

"In Gratitude—for seventeen years of expert collaboration with authors, Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, Production Editors and office staff to assure timely and regular publication of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, at the highest level of quality and setting standards for courtesy and professional interaction, this citation is issued with the deep appreciation of John Wiley & Sons, Publishers, and the Editorial Office of the Journal,"

signed by me and Dr. Brian D. Crawford, Vice President and General Manager, Life and Medical Sciences at John Wiley & Sons.

In addition, at the David W. Smith Workshop on Malformations and Morphogenesis in September, 1996, a letter of appreciation to Lavelle was circulated and signed by 119 scientists who have worked over the years with her to get their papers published in the Journal.

This then is to say Thank You, *ex abundantia cordis*, to Jürgen Herrmann, James F. Reynolds, John Johnson and Lavelle Spano for working so hard and so well over the last 20 years to help make the Journal what it is now.

For many years there has existed a cordial and collegial relationship with the University of Utah. Whether it was in Pediatric Cardiology or Endocrinology, Reproductive Genetics, or for that matter Pediatric Clinical Genetics, many Montana and Idaho patients have been evaluated at the University of Utah. Thus, it is not surprising that over the years strong bonds of friendship and professional respect have developed between Helena and Salt Lake City geneticists, not the least because of shared editorial responsibilities. Drs. John C. Carey, Jeff Botkin and Ken Ward are valuable members of the Editorial Board and hard working reviewers for the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. It is therefore with profound gratitude that I acknowledge the vision and resolve of Drs. Edward B. Clark and Raymond F. Gesteland as the leaders of Pediatrics and Human Genetics at the University of Utah, to welcome the Journal at this University and to support it and make it part of an extraordinarily exciting inter- and multidisciplinary developmental genetics/biology program.

This gives me a most welcome opportunity of introducing Dr. John C. Carey, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Utah and Director of the Divisions of Medical Genetics, as the new Associate Editor of the Journal. And taking up the reigns of the Assistant Editor's job will be David J. Kirkpatrick, a native of Livingston, Montana, and a graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism, who has edited the *Montana Kaimin* and has had extensive experience as a reporter/editor of *The Montana Standard*.

We should also like to thank all members of the Editorial Board who are willing to assume the responsibility of working with us in this capacity during the re-organization of the Journal three years ago. Editorial Board members have a maximum 5 year term of office; however, to assure continuity without turning over the entire Editorial Board at once, some terms will need to be staggered to less than

5 years. Thus, by the end of the year there will be an opportunity to replace  $\frac{3}{5}$  of the present Editorial Board members. Toward this end we would be glad to receive nominations for 1, 2 or 3 year term Board members. After this nomination process is complete, we shall be adding the term of tenure to the names of the Editorial Board members on the masthead.

Finally, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the professionals at John Wiley & Sons, who have been so

extraordinarily supportive of the Journal over the past 20 years. And with the continuing support of the University of Utah, the Publishers, the Editorial Board and staff, we anticipate with pleasure bringing to the readers of this Journal the latest and most useful and important of the advances in Medical Genetics.

**John M. Opitz**  
**Editor-in-Chief**